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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1934.

By

D. W. DAVIDSON, (M.B., Ch.B. Glasgow).
(Medical Officer of Health).


And

ROBERT G. CHILD, (Mem. San. Inspec. Assoc.).
(Sanitary Inspector).

Issued by the Urmston Urban District Council.

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BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the year 1934. England and Wales, 121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, and 135 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1934, but those for London and the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1933.

	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS			
	Live Births.	Still-Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs.)	Total Deaths under One year.	Certified by Registered Medical Practitioners	Inquest Cases	Certified by Coroner after P.M. No Inquest.	Uncertified Causes of Death	
England and Wales...	14.8	0.62	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.05	0.10	0.14	0.54	5.5	59	90.4	6.5	2.1	1.0	
121 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London...	14.7	0.66	11.8	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.02	0.06	0.11	0.12	0.47	7.4	63	90.5	6.1	2.9	0.5	
135 Smaller Towns (estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	15.0	0.67	11.3	0.00	—	0.07	0.02	0.04	0.09	0.14	0.42	3.6	53	91.2	6.1	1.6	1.1	
London	13.2	0.50	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.20	0.02	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.56	12.6	67	87.7	6.3	6.0	0.0	

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :—

per 1,000 Live Births	Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
	2.03	2.57	4.60
„ „ Total Births	1.95	2.46	4.41

The Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1934.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

CROFTS BANK ROAD,
URMSTON,

JUNE, 1935.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urmston Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my fifth annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1934.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, 4,797 acres.

Population (Census, April, 1931), 9,284.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population,
1934, 26,630.

Number of occupied houses (Census 1931) 2,474

„ „ „ „ 31st Dec., 1934..... 7,962

„ „ unoccupied houses, 31st Dec., 1934 ... 221

The rateable value at 31st December, 1934, was £263,232 and the sum represented by a penny rate, £1,070.

The geographical position of Urmston is six miles W.S.W. from Manchester and 204 miles from London.

With the exception of the Trafford Park area of Davyhulme the district is chiefly residential, the residents being mainly dependant on Manchester and surrounding districts for their livelihood.

The chief industries carried on in Trafford Park are :—petroleum storage, oil refining, manufacture of asbestos, steel, wire, rubber, chemicals and furniture, also engineering and electricity works, tea bonding and abattoirs products.

Unemployment in the district is not extensive in comparison with surrounding areas.

The Council have under consideration the provision of dwellings for 718 persons who will be displaced by the demolition of 217 houses under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1930.

Four hundred and fifty-two houses have been erected for the housing of the working classes under the Acts of 1919, 1923 and 1924.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident popula- tion, 17·0.
Live Births	Legitimate	448	242	206	
	Illegitimate	5	3	2	
	Total	<hr/> 453	<hr/> 245	<hr/> 208	

Still Births ... 20 16 4 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 42.

Deaths ... 288 133 155 Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, $\div 10\cdot8$.

Deaths from Puerperal causes--

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births.	Total Births.
Puerperal sepsis	—	—	—
Other puerperal causes	1	—	—
Total	1	2·11	

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births...	46
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	46
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	1
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1

Population	Per 1,000 of Estimated Population				Maternal Mortality Rate		Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births
	Live Birth-rate	Crude Death Rate	Death rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Death rate from Cancer	Per 1000 Live Births	Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births	
26,630							
Mean of 5 years—							
1929—1933	14·0	12·0	0·51	1·80	5·49	5·13	53
Year 1933 ...	14·5	10·2	0·41	1·62	3·21	3·06	41
1934	17·0	+10·8	0·48	1·80	2·20	2·11	46
Increase or Decrease in 1934 on 5 years average, 1929-1933	+3·0	—1·2	—0·03	Nil.	—3·29	—3·02	—7
Previous Year ...	+2·5	+0·6	+0·07	+0·17	—1·01	—0·95	+5
1934 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor 1·09)=11·7 per 1,000							

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING				1934	
				Males	Females
Measles	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza	...	...	...	1	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	6	7
do. (non-respiratory)	„	...	...	3	2
Syphilis	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	22	26
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	7	13
Heart Disease	...	...	...	33	39
Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	1
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	6	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	7	9
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	3	1
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	—
Diarrhoea, etc., (under 2 years)	...	...	...	—	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	—
Diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	1	5
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	3
Puerperal causes	...	...	...	—	1
Congenital debility, premature birth, malformations, etc.	...	...	...	8	4
Senility	...	...	...	5	10
Suicide	...	...	...	4	2
Other violence	...	...	...	2	3
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	8	8
All causes				133	155
Deaths of Infants under one year				13	8
Total				13	8
Legitimate				13	8
Illegitimate				—	—
Live Births				245	208
Total				245	208
Legitimate				242	206
Illegitimate				3	2
Stillbirths				16	4
Total				16	4
Legitimate				15	4
Illegitimate				1	—

There has not been any unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has required investigation or any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially noteworthy.

There is no evidence to shew that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

By an agreement dated 9th September, 1930, between the Council and the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board provision was made for the reception at the Board's Hospital of smallpox patients from this District. Under the provisions of an agreement dated 31st December, 1930, a similar arrangement existed between the former Barton-upon-Irwell Rural District Council and the Hyde Corporation with respect to persons in the Rural District suffering from the disease.

By the operation of the Lancashire (Manchester and District) Review Order, 1933, the latter agreement had full force and effect in the Urban District of Urmston until such time as it was determined or altered. The Council, however, came to the conclusion that such agreement was redundant as the facilities available under the agreement with the Bury and District Joint Board was sufficient for the purpose and notice was given to terminate the agreement on the 10th October, 1934.

For other infectious diseases an agreement exists with the Salford Corporation for the accommodation of patients at their Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Pathological and bacteriological examinations are undertaken by arrangement with the Manchester University, Department of Bacteriology and Preventative Medicine at their Laboratory in York Place, Manchester. The number of examinations made during the year was as follows :—

Month.	Diphtheria.	Bacteriological.	Water Chemical.
January	3	—	—
February	9	—	—
March	4	—	—
April	4	—	—
May	3	—	—
June	5	1	1
July	1	—	—
August	8	—	—
September	6	1	1
October	4	—	—
November	8	—	—
December	13	—	—
	—	—	—
Total	68	2	2
	—	—	—

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—For the removal of cases of infectious disease, the motor ambulances belonging to the Salford Corporation and Bury and District Joint Hospital Board are available. For non-infectious cases, accident cases and maternity patients arrangements exist with the Stretford, Eccles, and Salford Corporations for the use of their motor ambulances.

NURSING IN THE HOME.—For general nursing purposes, nurses from the Urmston Cottage Hospital, and the Urmston, Flixton and Davyhulme Nursing Association visit patients when as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association and employs one nurse permanently and one additional nurse temporarily as required. The Association does not undertake midwifery cases (*i.e.*, attendance at confinement without a medical practitioner) or monthly nursing. As regards the nursing at home of cases of infectious disease, no special arrangements are in operation.

CLINICS.—The maternity and child welfare centres in the district are provided by the Lancashire County Council. Consultation and treatment is provided each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 2-30 to 4-0 p.m., and which are well attended and much appreciated by mothers and their children in this district.

HOSPITALS.—General hospital accommodation for the use of inhabitants of the district is available at the hospitals of Manchester and district, Salford, Eccles and Davyhulme, also the Urmston Cottage Hospital. For the treatment of Tuberculosis the sanatoria of the Lancashire County Council are available. The Council contribute to several voluntary hospitals in Manchester and Salford.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.—This is supplied by the Manchester Corporation and is of good quality. A constant and direct supply is maintained to each dwelling-house in the district.

The question of liability to plumbo-solvent action has been raised from time to time, but it is considered that although the water is very soft, no action need be taken with regard to its liability to act on lead pipes.

The water is analysed at regular intervals by the Manchester Corporation Waterworks Department, and the results both chemically and bacteriologically are quite satisfactory. There are approximately four houses in this district which are supplied from wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—All sewers in the district are flushed with fresh water as required and all new drains are submitted to water test.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.—At the end of the year there were :—

19 Privy Middens. 26 Privy Closets. 93 Pail Closets.
24 Dry Ashpits (excluding middens).
8,081 Fresh Water Closets. 8,133 Movable Ashbins,
71 Waste Water Closets.

Number of houses on water carriage system, 8,152.

Conversions.		During year 1934	During five years 1929-33
No. of Pail Closets	{ To waste W.C.'s.	—	—
	{ To fresh W.C.'s.	—	—
	{ To waste W.C.'s.	—	—
No. of Privy Closets	{ To fresh W.C.'s.	—	2
	{ To pail closets	—	—
No. of Waste W.C.'s. to Fresh W.C.'s.		—	—
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles		2	6

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—One statutory notice was served to abate a nuisance arising from the emission of black smoke and which was complied with.

Leaflets and Posters giving particulars of courses in “Fuel Economy and Smoke Abatement” at the Manchester College of Technology were circulated amongst local firms.

The Council is represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee.

SCHOOLS.—All are kept in a good sanitary condition and are sufficiently supplied with water. The Department is in constant co-operation with the School Medical Officer in relation to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

4—HOUSING.

1—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1—(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	53
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	124
2—(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	50
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	87
3—Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	22
4—Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	31

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF STATUTORY NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Council or their Officers...	23
--	----

3—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR—

(A) Proceedings under Section 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs	7
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of statutory notices :—	
(a) By owners	5
(b) By the Council in default of owners	Nil.

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
---	------

(C) Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders made in December, 1933	2

(D) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930—

(1) Number of Separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
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5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—The supply is obtained partly locally and partly from outside districts, and is generally of a wholesome character. The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and are generally in a fairly good condition. One licence to sell “Certified” milk, 3 “Grade A” and 1 “Pasteurised” were granted during the year.

The veterinary inspection of dairy cows in this district is under the jurisdiction of the Lancashire County Council.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—Periodical visits of inspection are made by the Sanitary Inspector, to the slaughter-houses and butchers' shops in the district. During the year 20 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lbs. of unwholesome meat was condemned as unfit for human consumption. There are 22 bakehouses in the district all of which are kept in a good sanitary condition.

ADULTERATION, CHEMICAL & BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The sampling and analysis of food and drugs in this district is under the control of the Lancashire County Constabulary.

NUTRITION.—No special work in connection with the dissemination of knowledge on this subject has been undertaken.

6.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each acute case notified is visited at once by the Sanitary Inspector and isolation is arranged either at the patient's home or by removal to Ladywell Sanatorium, Salford. When cases are isolated at home all children from the infected house are prevented from attending school until such time as the house is free from infection. On termination of the case by removal to hospital, recovery or death, the room and its contents are thoroughly fumigated under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector, and the bedding is submitted to super-heated steam disinfection at the Salford Corporation's Disinfecting Station, Mode Wheel Road, Salford. Diphtheria anti-toxin is provided by the Council and a constant supply is always kept in the district.

The hospital accommodation available for cases of infectious disease is utilised to the best advantage, removal to hospital only being undertaken when isolation at the patient's home is not possible.

It has not been considered necessary to make any use of the "Schick and Dick" tests for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1933.

TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.														HOSPITAL.		
Disease.	Total cases at all ages.	under 1	YEARS.										65 and over	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
			1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65				
Scarlet Fever...	32		2	5	2	12	6	3	1	1				16		
Diphtheria ...	42	2	1	6	1	3	8	6	3	7	1	3	1	2	38	2
Enteric Fever	1											1			1	—
Acute Primary Pneumonia } " Influenzal " }	23	3	1		1	4	1			4	3	5	1	16	4	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4									4					4	
Cerebro Spinal Fever	3	1	1							1				2	3	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1						1									
Erysipelas ...	7						1			3		3			3	
Measles ...														2		
Whooping Cough														1		
Influenza ...														1		
Bronchitis ...														10		
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)														1		
Other Puerperal causes ..														1		
Totals ...	113	5	3	9	7	5	24	15	6	20	5	12	2	36	69	4

CANCER.—No special enquiries such as those outlined in the Ministry of Health circular 1136, dated 31st July, 1930, have been undertaken on behalf of the Council. Research work and treatment is constantly being undertaken by the Manchester and District Radium Institute, and also the Christie Hospital and Hall Radium Institute, Manchester. Forty-eight deaths occurred during the year equal to an annual death rate of 1,80.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.—No action has been taken under Section 88 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

TUBERCULOSIS.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1935, in connection with tuberculous employees in the milk trade and no compulsory removal to hospital has been required under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

The notification of tuberculosis in the district is fairly efficient. There are instances in which it would appear that notification has not been very prompt, the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths being as high as 33. $\frac{1}{3}$ rd per cent.

There is not any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in the area during 1934 is given in the following form :

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1934.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1			1				1	
1—5		1	3			1		
5—10			2	2				1
10—15				1				
15—20	1	3				1		
20—25	4	1						
25—35	4	2	2	1	1	4		
35—45	3			1	3			
45—55	3		2		1	1	1	1
55—65	2	1			1		1	
65 & upwards			1					
Totals	17	8	11	5	6	7	3	2
	25		16		13		5	

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

D. W. DAVIDSON, MB., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

CROFTS BANK ROAD,

URMSTON,

JUNE, 1935.

*To the Chairman and Members of
the Urmston Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a summary of the work of the various departments during the past year, being the second Annual Report of the amalgamated district.

The work generally has been carried out without much friction although under difficult conditions owing to the continual rapid development and absence of sufficient assistance to cope with the ever increasing demands on the department; and in consequence the work has again been extremely heavy. I am pleased to say, however, that my Council have at last appointed fully qualified assistance and which will render conditions much better, not only for the department, but for the district.

You will realize the rapid growth of the district by the fact that 732 new houses were certified during the year, apart from extensions to works in the Trafford Park area.

At the end of the year the number of houses were 7,962 occupied, and 221 unoccupied. This number taken on an average of $3\frac{1}{2}$ persons per occupied house represents an estimated population of 27,867.

The total number of inspections made for all purposes were 1442, and include drain tests, dairies, cowsheds, slaughter-houses, bakehouses, etc., and all matters appertaining to a public health department.

Most of the nuisances were abated on formal request and it was only necessary to serve statutory notices in a few instances. It was not necessary to resort to any legal proceedings during the year.

Considerable work has arisen under the Housing Acts, 1930, and a plan has been agreed upon in respect to Clearance areas and individual unfit houses, involving 217 houses. This work is well in hand in accordance with the programme laid down for 1935.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The controlled method of refuse disposal inaugurated shortly after amalgamation is still proving satisfactory. Additional land was acquired during the year for this purpose and which is rapidly being filled up owing to the ever-increasing property. With alteration in the arrangements, however, accommodation can be provided for about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, when additional land or new site will be required.

The work of refuse removal is carried out entirely by motor lorries.

Trade refuse is also collected from shops by arrangement with the Council under their regulations. Where shopkeepers and others, who desire to remove their own waste, this is accepted at the tip and disposed of free of charge.

The approximate number of dustbins emptied each week is 8,133, the regularity of which is very important in preventing unhealthy and unpleasant conditions.

There are still a few privy middens in the scattered portions of the district. There are also a few dry ashpits and a number of pail closets in the Trafford Park area. The pail closets receiving weekly attention and the privy middens and dry ashpits as often as required..

The following is a summary of the number of loads of house and other refuse dealt with at the tip during the year :—

House Refuse	5,143
Trade Refuse	1,115
Other Refuse	485
	<hr/>
Total ...	6,743
	<hr/>

The average weight of house refuse collected and disposed of being 5,143 tons. This average weight gives a total of 12.9 cwts per occupied house and on the estimated population of 27,867, 3.6 cwts per head for the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

There are in the district three private slaughter-houses. The majority of the meat sold is either imported or obtained from the Manchester Meat Market. The butchers' shops are frequently inspected and visits are paid to the slaughter-houses at the times of slaughtering.

The above-mentioned regulations are reasonably observed. The shops are up-to-date, kept clean, and the quality of meat sold is satisfactory.

There are also two markets in the district which are kept under regular observation.

We have also the Cold Air Stores, Trafford Park, which comes under the above regulations and where large consignments of imported carcases are examined from time to time.

BAKEHOUSES.

The regulations governing these premises are complied with. A large amount of bread and confectionery is now re-tailed and delivered from vans and other vehicles.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The number of names on the register under the above Order are as follows :—

Cowkeepers	31
Milk Purveyors	39
	<hr/>
Total ...	70
	<hr/>

The majority of the milk sold is by bottle and is to be encouraged as a preventative against contamination, providing thorough cleanliness is observed by the dairyman with regard to the bottles.

Periodical sampling is essential in arriving at a clean milk supply, but this has been impossible during the past year. I am hoping, however, that in the near future this work will again be carried out.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Three trades under this heading are established in the district; one being tripe boiling and gut scraping, and the other two soap boiling.

No complaints have been received in connection with these works and which are conducted in a proper and satisfactory manner.

During the year application was made for the establishment of an offensive trade of soap boiling in a residential area and refused by the Council. The firm afterwards lodged an appeal with the Ministry of Health and after an enquiry held by the Ministry the action of the Council was upheld.

PETROLEUM STORAGE.

The number of licenses granted under the Petroleum Acts were 52 for the storage of petrol or other spirit and five for carbide of calcium.

The licences granted allow for the storage of 305,244 gallons of petroleum spirit, and in most cases the method is by underground tank and pump. With regard to the bulk storage of carbide four works are involved; one being for the preparation of special carbide blocks and the remaining three for canning and preparation of dissolved acetylene gas in cylinders.

PUBLIC LIGHTING.

Many improvements and additions have again been made in connection with public lamps; the number in operation being 1,018 gas and 304 electric.

The gas lamps are maintained by agreement with the Stretford & District Gas Board, while the electric lamps are under the entire control of the Council's staff.

Many other additions will again be necessary during the year owing to the increase in building and the opening up of new estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. G. CHILD,

*Sanitary Inspector.
Lighting Superintendent,
and Petroleum Inspector.*





